



Dear Teacher or Principal,

The Indiana State Tree Farm Committee strongly encourages the development of quality outdoor education classrooms. Without a doubt, classes taught outdoors are experiences likely to remain in the minds of students for many years. We are pleased to sponsor a contest to recognize the Outstanding Outdoor School Classroom each year. This is the 32nd year of running this prestigious award. Many of the State award winners went on to further awards.

What does the Tree Farm Committee look for in its selection? Although "tree" is in our name and we do look for forest use and management in the curriculum, an existing woods is not needed to qualify for the award. We are more interested in how you are developing a curriculum around the natural resources you have. A major consideration will be that there is a curricular emphasis on use and management of natural resources. We believe it is essential that students learn how our natural resources are used to provide us with all of the products we use every day. We can't have houses, furniture or paper without cutting trees; we can't feed an expanding population without modern agricultural practices; we can't build and drive automobiles without mining the earth's minerals. But we can't expect all of these resources to sustain us indefinitely without proper management. Human impact on the earth is too intense to simply let nature take its course in replenishing resources without active human management. This is a message our young people must be taught if they are to carry on as responsible stewards of the land.

We like to see a well balanced program that goes beyond simple awareness and identification. It should include consideration of soils, water, wildlife, energy and, of course, forestry, and how these resources can be managed for production, recreation, aesthetics and other benefits. We also like to see a program used in many different subject areas and at many different grade levels. It may seem that we are expecting a great deal, and we are--we are looking for the most outstanding outdoor lab program in the state.

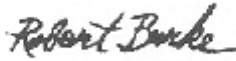
Initial judging will be made at the District Tree Farm Committee level, and district finalists will have an on-site evaluation conducted by the selection committee. Completed applications should be mailed to the Chairperson of the District Committee (see map attached to application) in which the school is located. Applications should be returned to District Committee members by June 15. District committee members will select district winners and then on-site evaluations of District winners will occur in September. A check for \$50.00 along with a district winner certificate will be presented to each district winner. From the district winners the State Outdoor Classroom will be selected.

Any school is eligible to receive the State award once, and schools not winning the award are encouraged to reapply. The school with the most outstanding classroom will be awarded two solid walnut plaques along with a \$500.00 check from the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association (IHLA) and a letter of appreciation from Senator Richard Lugar. The first plaque will be engraved with the name of the school and the second plaque is reserved for the person who has been most responsible for guiding the outdoor lab's development. The State award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. in February. We also will arrange for the winning school to make a presentation at the HASTI convention in which the winning school can highlight their school's achievement.

If you are aware of an outdoor lab that stresses multiple use resource management, your efforts in nominating the school for this award will be greatly appreciated. If you need additional copies of the application, please contact any one of the District Tree Farm Chairpersons listed on the attached map. Should you have any questions, please contact your local representative of the State Tree Farm System or any member of the Indiana State Tree Farm Committee.

We look forward to the opportunity to coming and visiting your school.

Sincerely,



Robert Burke, Chairman

State Tree Farm Committee

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1977 School - Prairie Heights School Corp. - LaGrange County Individual - Ned Stump

1978 School - Hamilton Southeastern Middle School - Hamilton County Individual - Roger Norris

1979 School - Marion Community Schools - Grant County Individual - Jerry Sweeten

1980 School - Bloomington North High School - Monroe County Individual - George Luginbill

1981 School - Warren Central High School - Marion County Individual - Linda Bayne

1982 School - Vigo County School Corporation - Vigo County Individual - Marilyn Blakely & Ron Helms

1983 School - Heth-Washington Elementary School - Harrison County Individual - Travis Bushau

1984 School - Weston Elementary School - Hancock County Individual - Pete Fortune

1985 School - Homestead High School - Allen County Individual - Douglas Waldman

1986 School - Parkside Elementary School - LaGrange County Individual - Joyce Weber & Joan Zimmerman

1987 School - North Harrison Elementary School - Harrison County Individual - Deborah Schroeder

1988 School - Charlestown Middle School - Clark County Individual - Bill King

1989 School - Eden Elementary School - Hancock County Individual - Susan Schultz

1990 School - Custer Baker Middle School - Johnson County Individual - Lynn Wilhelm

1991 School - Brush Creek Elementary - Jennings County Individual - Ron Milligan

1992 School - New Albany - Floyd County Schools - Floyd County Individual - John Riddle

1993 School - Franke Park School - Allen County Individual - Russ Voorhees

1994 School - Spencer Elementary - Owen County Individual - Ginny Coppedge

1995 School - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School - Marion County Individual - Stephen Craig

1996 School - Concord Southside Elementary School - Elkhart County Individual - Judy Wells

1997 School - Chrisney Elementary - Spencer County Individual - Tammy Graham

1998 School - South Ripley Elementary - Ripley County Individual - David Brawner

1999 School- Angola Middle School- Steuben County Individual-Steve Beckwitt

2000 School - Tzouanakis Intermediate School - Putnam County Individual - Daniel TeGrotenhuis.

2001 School - Luce Elementary School - Spencer County Individual - Patricia Keith and Tom Hodges.

2002 School – Lincoln Elementary School – Lake County – Individual - Kathleen Krum

2003 School – Pendleton Elementary - Madison County - Individual – Marilyn Crosley

2004 School – Avon, Carol Ford , individual

2005 School – Northwest Allen County Environmental Center – Individual - Nancy Leininger

2006 School – Logansport, Individual - David Lapierre

2007 School – Edgewood District Schools, Ellettsville/Bloomington; Individual – Judy Moran